



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Jury Finds Maryland Man Guilty of Brutal Murder of Homeless Man

WASHINGTON - After nearly a two-week trial, a District of Columbia Superior Court jury today found a Suitland, Maryland man, Frank Johnson, also known as "JR," 29, guilty of one count of First Degree Murder While Armed, one count of Felony Murder While Armed, one count of Second Degree Burglary While Armed, and related weapons offenses, for his role in the April 7, 2003 murder of Reginald Brighthart, 35, in an abandoned apartment in a housing complex on Robinson Place, SE, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Johnson will be sentenced on December 9, 2009, by Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. Johnson faces a mandatory minimum of 30 years in prison.

According to evidence presented at trial, after a night out at the Classic's Night Club in Prince George's County, Johnson drove to the housing complex on Robinson Place and began to harass the decedent, Reginald Brighthart. This escalated into a brutal beating of the decedent by Johnson and others who joined with him. At some point, the decedent managed to escape into a nearby vacant apartment unit. Johnson and accomplices followed Mr. Brighthart into the unit where they shot and killed him.

In announcing the verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Darryl Richmond, Dwayne Corbett, Mitchell Credle, and Jeffery Owens, for their outstanding investigation and help in securing the testimony of numerous witnesses for trial. He further commended Mobile Crime Technicians Carmen Pagan, Ridley Durham and Petheria McIver. Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips also praised the U.S. Attorney's Office staff who assisted in this successful prosecution, including Paralegal Specialist Aleesha Matthews-Yette, Witness Security Specialist Katina Adams, the Litigation Technology Section, Intelligence Analyst Larry Grasso, and Witness Security Specialists Laverne Forrest. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Michelle Jackson, who prosecuted the case at trial.

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